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**Title of Research:  
Female Students Domination in Higher Education  
Institutions at Kota Samarahan**

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PREFACE

Today's situation in higher education institutes is far away from an equal participation of both female and male students. It is well known that higher education plays a key role in shaping society and building active citizens. A lot of the people who will take powerful roles in a society have a background in higher education. This implies that a gender equal higher education has also a very huge long term impact on the gender equality within the society.

The numbers of male students entering the institution of higher learning has been decreased every year. A statistic conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education showed that the total number of students register for 2010/2011 session is 105, 377 students. From the amount, 58.6% or 61750 students are female, while the remaining 41.4% or 43627 students are male, which is almost a 2:1 rate.

The Vice Chancellor of Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Prof. Dr. Aminah Ayub said that unexpectedly in the technical field including engineering, it also has been dominated by the female students instead of male students in all the universities. For the education field, almost 70% was controlled by women students. The small numbers of male students do not only happened in UPSI and in education field only, but expand to the other universities in other fields such as technical and professionals.

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW & CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter provides a review of the literature on the female domination at higher education institutions and also the conceptual framework of the study.

##### 2.1.1 INTRODUCTION

A changing trend has emerged in the participation of women and men in higher education in developed nations that was not evident in the early nineties. For example, female students outnumbered male students (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2002, 2005; Bradley, 2000); female students outperformed male students academically (Gammie, Paver, Gammie, & Duncan, 2003; Graf, 2005); and female students chose fields of study in which they were previously under represented, although male students continued to make traditional choices (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2002, 2005; Ayalon, 2003; Beyer, DeKeuster, Rynes, & DeHeer, 2004; Beyer, DeKeuster, Walter, Colar, & Holcomb, 2005). Jones, Howe, and Rua (2000) noted the persistence of gender differences in the experience, as well as attitudes and perceptions of students towards science courses.

Conversely, in a research undertaken by Salta and Tzougraki (2004) no observable difference was noted between males and females regarding interest, usefulness, and the importance of chemistry as a science subject. Even today, at a time when women comprise the majority of college and university enrolments and the major long standing gaps in educational participation have been narrowed or even closed, the topic of gender differences continues to receive attention among researchers and

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

For the purpose of this study, the research design will be cross-sectional survey. The research demands for information from the various departments, divisions, section and target or focus groups within the organizations. Types of approaches are interviews of focus groups, supplemented by a questionnaire survey.

#### **3.2 Unit of Analysis**

As this study will address the issue of the impact of more female students at the higher education institutions, therefore the unit of analysis will be the public servants as well as the students in the IPTA themselves.

#### **3.3 Sample Size**

The sample size for the purpose of this study is 150 which will be divided equally to both the public servants and the students.

#### **3.4 Sampling Technique**

The type of sampling is purposive sampling which means only specific types of people who can provide the desired information (Sekaran, 2003). In purposive sampling, there are reasons for deliberately selecting the units.